

### C. Remarks

The claims are 7-15 with claim 7 being the sole independent claim. Claims 1-6 and 16-37 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 7 has been amended to be in independent form, while claim 13 has been amended to adjust its dependency. Support for this amendment may be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

Claims 4-6, 16 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,613,498 B1 (Brown). Claims 4-6, 16 and 32-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,004,673 (Vlannes). Claims 31 and 33-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from Brown in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,475,704 B1 (Iwasaki; CFG02241US). Claims 31 and 35-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from Vlannes in view of Iwasaki. While Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, claims 1-6 and 16-37 have been cancelled herein in an effort to expedite prosecution. Accordingly, the above-listed rejections are now moot and should be withdrawn.

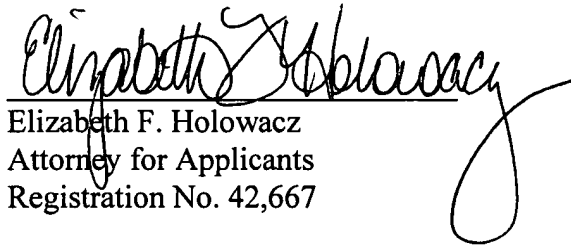
Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 7-15 are directed to allowable subject matter. Given Applicants' amendment of claim 7 to be in independent form and of claim 13 to adjust its dependency, Applicants submit that all of the remaining claims 7-15 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and passage to issue of the present case is respectfully requested. If, upon consideration of this paper, the Examiner believes there are any outstanding issues, it is

respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney in an effort to expeditiously resolve such issues.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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